



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS
(CCC)
IN TENNESSEE
1933-1942**

Processed by:

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INTRODUCTION

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Tennessee Collection (1933-1942) is the result of a cooperative effort by the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Parks and Recreation and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The records were obtained by James B. Jones, Jr., Director of the Department of Conservation's project entitled "The Civilian Conservation Corps – Its Legacy to Tennessee."

The materials in this finding aid measures 1.26 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Tennessee Collection the may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Tennessee Collection, containing approximately 150 items, covers the period 1933-1942. The collection is composed of correspondence, interviews, memorabilia, military records, photographs, a song, reports, and a special category.

There is a small amount of correspondence from Tennesseans who served in the Civilian Conservation Corps. These letters generally concern various items donated to this collection. In addition, some data relative to individual experiences in the C.C.C. may be found. Correspondents are James O. Rickman, Mrs. John L. Seawell and John A. Woolley.

There are nineteen cassette tape recordings of interviews with several former C.C.C. workers individually and at various reunions in the latter part of 1983. These interviews supply recollections of C.C.C. experiences. The list of interviewees and the dates of the interviews are found in Box 1, Folder 2. Memorabilia consists of C.C.C. sleeve patches.

Military records include certificates of discharge, company histories, menus and rosters and a "201 file" of Glenn DePriest, C.C.C. Co. 1455, consisting of appointments, bulletins, camp newspapers, certificates, correspondence, leaves of absence, memoranda, orders, resolutions and rosters.

Most of the photographs are of single individuals, small groups or companies. Others show camp barracks, conservation work and recreational activities. One unusual picture shows a tree with both ends rooted (see Box 3, Folder 15). The tree picture was submitted and appeared in a Ripley "Believe It or Not" cartoon.

"High 'Cs'" is a song of the Civilian Conservation Corps composed by North Callahan. A tape of the song is found with the rest of the cassette recordings in the collection.

There are two field reports on the conservation work of the C.C.C. in Tennessee: Fall Creek Falls Recreational Demonstration Area and Montgomery Bell Project Reclamation Area.

The special category features the 50th Anniversary Reunion of C.C.C. Co. 1455 in 1983.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Tennessee Collection along with Record Group 93, Civilian Conservation Corps, provides valuable research data for this aspect of twentieth century Tennessee history.

AGENCY HISTORY

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Tennessee

1933 May, establishment of Camp Cordell Hull in Unicoi County, with Companies 1455 and 1472 occupying that site¹

1933-1942 ca. 70,000 Tennessee men served in the CCC

Accomplishments: built 98 lookout houses and towers
erected 3,959 miles of forest telephone lines
built 1,469 miles of minor roads
constructed 387,208 check dams for erosion control
planted 36,091,000 trees for erosion control,
26,939,900 for reforestation, and 554,457 pounds of
hardwood seeds
spent 134,811 man-days fighting forest fires and
another 122,033 man-days in fire prevention work
built the first state parks in Tennessee, including
Pickett, Reelfoot, Frozen Head, Norris Dam, the
Grundy County Lakes and Recreational Area, Big
Ridge, T.O. Fuller, N.B. Forrest, Booker T.
Washington, Harrison Bay, Cove Lake, Pickwick
Landing and Cumberland Mountain

¹ Tennessee was in the Fourth Corps Area, and along with portions of western North Carolina, Northern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi composed District C.

Source: Jones, James B., Jr. "Civilian Conservation Corps: Its Legacy to Tennessee." The Courier. June 1984, Vol. XXII, No. 3. Tennessee Historical Commission.

AGENCY HISTORY

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- 1933 March 31, Congress passes the Unemployment Relief Act which creates the Emergency Conservation Work¹ for a period of two years
- Initial call for 250,000 “boys”² to be enrolled by July 1
April 7, Henry Rich of Alexandria, Virginia the first enrollee
April 14, enrollment of 14,000 Indians authorized
April 22, enrollment of 24,000 “Local Experienced Men” authorized
May 11, 24,000 veterans of World War I, men in their 30’s and 40’s authorized for enrollment
July 4, approximately 275,000 men were enrolled
- April 17, first camp established and occupied in the George Washington Forest near Luray, Virginia
- 1935 Age limit for “boys” or Juniors raised to 28
September, enrollment peaked at 502,000, organized into 2,514 camps³ in every state and several territories
- Life of CCC extended to 1937
- 1937 CCC extended to 1940
- 1933-1938 More than 2,000,000 men participated in the program
- 1939 Corps’ life extended to June 30, 1943 and the CCC became part of the Federal Security Agency
- 1942 June 30, the CCC officially went out of existence

² Name officially changed by Congress in 1937 to the Civilian Conservation Corps.

³ They were to be between 18 and 25 years old, unmarried, unemployed, and from families on relief.

⁴ It was designated successfully as Camp GWNF-1, NF-1, F-1 and Roosevelt

⁵ The War Department administered the camps. The department was divided into nine corps areas.
Source: Cohen, Stan. The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence – Rickman, Jas. O., Seawell, Mrs. John L., and Woolley, John A.
2. Interviews – Baggenstoss, Herman, et al., 1983

Box 2

1. Memorabilia – CCC sleeve patches (Bibb, ____)
2. Military Records – Appointment – Nix, Williard
3. Military Records – Certificate – Discharge – Beal, James G.
4. Military Records – Certificate – Discharge – DePriest, Glen Edward
5. Military Records – Certificate – Discharge – Fox, Eugene
6. Military Records – Certificate – Discharge – Nix, Willard
7. Military Records – Certificate – Proficiency – Beal, James
8. Military Records – Certificate – Proficiency – DePriest, Glenn, E.
9. Military Records – Company history – District “C,” Fourth Corps Area
10. Military Records – Company history – District “C,” Fourth Corps Area
11. Military Records – Company history – District “C,” Fourth Corps Area
12. Military Records – Company history – District “C,” Co. 220, SP-12, Bristol, Tenn.
13. Military Records – Company history – District “C,” Co. 1466, S-78, Pikeville, Tenn.
14. Military Records – Company history – Vancouver Barracks Dist., Ninth Corps Area

Box 3

1. Military Records – Menu and Roster – Co. 496, Camp Tenn., TVA 29 – Lexington, Tenn.
2. Military Records – Menu and Roster – Co. 1454, Camp Sisters, F-110, Camp Sherman, Oregon
3. Military Records – Menu and Roster – Co. 1473, Camp Evan Shelby, Bristol, Tenn.
4. Military Records – Menu and Roster – Co. 5435, Camp P74, Criglersville, Va.
5. Military Records – 201 file – DePriest, Glenn E.
6. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 297, Loyston, Tenn., 1934-1935
7. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 490, Camp Coie Foster, Dyer, Tenn. (Medley, Warren)
8. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 491, New Tazewell, Tenn., 1937 (Freek, Enock R.)
9. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 494, TVA-45, Norris, Tenn.
10. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 496, TVA-29, Lexington, Tenn. (Hart, Walter R.)
11. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 1455 & 1472, Camp Cordell Hull, Unicoi, Tenn., n.d., (Rickman, Jas. O.)

12. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 1461, Camp Willis P. Davis, Tenn., (Pickens, James H.)
13. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 1473, Camp Evan Shelby, Bristol, Tenn., 1933-1935, (Pickens, Jas. H.)
14. Photographs and drawings, etc. – C.C.C. Co. 3464, N.P 16, Crossville, Tenn., 1941-1942, (Medley, Warren)
15. Photographs and drawings, etc. – Jimmie Driver and his “Tennessee Playboys” (Driver, J.G.)
16. Photographs and drawings, etc. – Miscellaneous – Crossville, Tenn., Timber, Oregon, Swanton, Md., Va. (Howell, John)
17. Photographs and drawings, etc. – Miscellaneous – Unidentified (Fox, E.H.)
18. Photographs and drawings, etc. – Miscellaneous – Unidentified (Woolley, Jas. A.)
19. Song and music – “High ‘C’”
20. Reports – Fall Creek Falls Recreational Demonstration Area, 1936-
21. Special categories – 50th Anniversary CCC Reunion, 1983

Map Drawer No. 1

Report – Montgomery Bell Project Reclamation Area, Dickson County, Tenn.

Photograph, drawings, etc. – CCC Camp Coie Foster, Co. 490, Dyer, Tenn.(2)

Photograph, drawings, etc. – CCC Co. No. 496, Project TVA-29, Lexington, Tenn. (2)

Photograph, drawings, etc. – CCC Co. No. 3464. Crossville, Tenn.

(Photographs not on film)